



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#14  
AB  
4/19/04

In re Application of  
RONALDUS M. AARTS ET AL.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/741,917  
FILED: December 20, 2000  
AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING DEVICE

Atty. Docket

PHN 17,834

GROUP ART UNIT: 2654

EXAMINER: V.P. Harper

**RECEIVED**

APR 08 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2004, in which the Examiner has rejected claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 09114479A to Masaharu et al. in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 07056497A to Atsushi et al.

Applicants traverse the above rejection and offer the following explanation.

The Masaharu et al. reference appears to disclose a sound field reproducing device in which voice signals are extracted from an input stereo signal including voice signals and music signals, reflected sounds are added to the resulting music signals thereby expanding the sound field of the music signals, and then the